21st March 1955]

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, the other day the Hon. the Minister for Finance replying to a question on the floor of this House said that Tiruvallur has been declared as a filarial area and that the Government have not made any arrangement to protect the public from an attack of this disease. Tiruvallur is noted for mosquitoes. Will the Government therefore consider the necessity for extending the Anti-malarial Scheme to Tiruvallur and surrounding villages? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" So far as the departmental information goes, there are no active cases of malaria in the two villages of Ekkadu and Tiruvallur."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, may I know whether Government have made any enquiry to find out whether a large number of patients were being treated in the hospital for malaria? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, enquiry can be made."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, now that this question has been posed on the floor of this House, will the Government institute an enquiry into the fact whether this tract is infested with malaria? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, that is what I said. So far as the department are concerned, they have no information that there are active cases. The Public Health Department also have not received any representation from the people of these two villages."

Regeneration of forests.

* 1511 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of forest regeneration area in the Madras State now ; and

(*b*) the amount spent for the regeneration of forests in 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The area regenerated is now 26,752·17 acres.

" (*b*) Rs. 7,05,618."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, does regeneration mean only prevention of denudation of forests or taking any concrete steps for the growth of new forests? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Regeneration does mean planting new species of trees which could be utilized for fuel and other purposes."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Sir, may I know whether this replanting or regeneration of forests is being done according to any specific plan and if so will the Government consider to extend the regeneration scheme to private forests also in some planned manner? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, certainly regeneration is taken up according to a working plan that is drawn up previously after examination, but it cannot be extended to private forests so long as private forests remain the property of private individuals."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that when licence is issued for clearfelling with regard to private forests, the concerned persons are asked to submit a plan for replanting of trees and if so whether the Government take steps to verify whether such plans are executed by the people who have cleared the forests as per the contract entered into with the Collector? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, with reference to the previous supplementary question, I just now stated that regeneration in private forests cannot be undertaken by the Government, but the hon. Member might put a separate question to my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Revenue as to what extent the owners of private forests do the regeneration."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister direct the Departmental officials not to undertake regeneration on lands adjoining villages, which are eminently fit for cultivation purposes? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The officers of the Forest Department will not undertake regeneration in areas which are not suitable for that."

Drinking water well at Pullipakkam.

* 1512 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the well used by the villagers of Pullipakkam in Chingleput district for drinking and cooking purposes is in a filthy and damaged condition ;

(*b*) whether it was dug in 1928 and whether the villagers recently prayed for its early repair; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken on their request?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) There is another well in the Cheri reported to have been sunk about 25 years ago. This well is beyond repairs. A petition has been received requesting among other things the repair of the well constructed in 1928.

" (*c*) The matter is under enquiry."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" Sir, may I know whether the District Board was not instructed to repair the well, as it was sunk by the District Board? "